M6A1 Research Essay Assignment GECC

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Abstract

This paper is focused on teenagers with drug and alcohol issues in our society. This paper explains how drug and alcohol issues affects teenagers and how deadly can be. This paper explains how teenagers using and abusing drug and alcohol can end up in prison. This paper expresses drug and alcohol abuse causes, effects, and treatments.

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Drug and Alcohol Addiction and The Affects on Family, Children, and Society

Drug, alcohol addiction, and overdose are a huge problem, which is affecting our society, families, and children. One of the major issues our society is facing is teenagers becoming addicted to drugs and alcohol. Many teenagers are not only using drugs and alcohol but start selling drugs to maintain their addiction and get arrested. As a result, this is not only affecting teenagers struggling with addiction but also facing incarceration as adults. More so, many teenagers dealing with addiction become suicidal. For instance, teenagers using alcohol and marijuana are more likely to become depressed (Bolanis et al., 2020). Teenagers between the age of 16-19 using alcohol are at a higher risk of suicide (Kumar et al., 2020). Some of these young adolescents have co-occurring disorders that cause more havoc in their lives. For example, the huge issue of drug and alcohol use and abuse during adolescence leads to overdose.

Addiction and Criminal Behavior

We need to look at what is the root cause of addiction, overdose, suicide, and incarceration. After all, this is a huge public concern for our communities and families. Why are young adolescence using and abusing drugs, alcohol, and becoming a part of the incarceration system? Young adolescent criminal behavior can be driven by many factors (Jones, 2016). For example, poverty can be a driven motive for criminal behavior. There-

fore, a young teenager can get caught up in using and selling drugs, as a way to gain fast money. As a result, this adolescent ends up in the prison system. This behavior increases the risk of abusing drugs, overdose, and suicidal tendencies. This can include numerous prison incarcerations for teenagers of active criminal behaviors. For example, during adolescence many teenagers are also at risk for dangerous gang-related influences.

Drug Issues in Prison

Research suggests adolescents that are at high risk, include no parent at home and children living in poverty (Carver et al., 2017). A lack of parental guidance and poverty not only affects school performance but is a high risk for criminal activity. The concern with youth incarceration is some adolescents become hard-core criminals in the system long term. Believe it or not, the bigger issue is the accessibility to drugs and alcohol inside the prisons. As a result, this issue keeps teenagers in a cycle of repetition for drug and alcohol abuse. More so, causing a potential overdose and a high risk of suicide. For example, the issue of teenagers includes alcohol and opioid use behind bars. This is a critical issue because teenagers are at high risk for fatal overdose (Bagley et al., 2019).

Drugs and Death

Overdose deaths are increasing high because of combination use of opioids, stimulants, and mental health prescriptions (O'Donnell et al., 2020). In other words, many adolescents are struggling with a mental illness. Young adolescents combine their prescription medication with alcohol, opioids, or stimulants and, become a deadly cocktail.

Regardless, adolescents brains are not fully developed and this all affects the brain and poisons the body. For example, a stimulant can attack the central nervous system and poison the body causing death (O'Donnell et al., 2020). Many teenagers have mental heath issues along with addiction disorders. For example, a teenager suffering from bipolar disorder and has an addiction to opioids. Co-occurring disorders are a huge issue that can lead to overdose and or death.

Different Aspects of Addiction: Causes, Effects, Treatments, Etc

Causes and Effects

Addiction is typically linked to many causes of patterns from addictive behaviors. Let's focus on particularly addictive behaviors related to trauma. Early trauma leads to addictive behavioral patterns and compulsive behavior. In other words, in many comorbidity, clinical cases drug and alcohol addiction, overdose, and suicide is closely related to trauma. For example, many addictive behaviors are linked to the traumatic event the person was faced with. As a result, the trauma can impact and affect how a person behaves compulsively and addictively. A person with trauma is likely to start drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana leading up to other substances. Unfortunately, the issue of smoking marijuana is that it's known to be the gateway drug leading to other drug use and abuse (Park, 2018). An individual with trauma would be more likely to use alcohol or drugs to relieve pain (Gill, 2014). For example, a young war veteran that has endured trauma and tragedy, suffering from post-traumatic stress, is often medicated by alcohol and drugs (Gill, 29014). However, an individual can make an intent for abstinence and

struggle to do so. For example, the individual may struggle due to addictive suffering behavioral patterns. This can create a pattern of self-medication making it difficult for the individual to stop the addiction. Even though the individual may seek out treatment and will find it difficult to commit to changing their behaviors. However, there are effective treatments that can help an individual create a life of sobriety before death occurs if they're fortunate to survive addiction. When addiction spirals it can be instantly deadly with no chance of recovery.

Treatment

There are many treatment approaches to preventing and treating addictive behaviors. Researchers and clinicians have found that preexisting addictive behaviors can be challenging. For example, many clinical cases demonstrate key concepts of recovery are challenging. Alcohol and drug abuse are serious social problems with major impacts on public health requiring treatment. According to (American Psychiatric Publishing, 2015) behavioral addiction diagnosis and treatments of patients display specific characteristics of substance use disorders. For example, some of these characteristics include troublesome behavior, tolerance, withdrawal, irritability, obsessive thinking, or engaging in addictive behavior. Also, some external consequences related to health, finances, interpersonal relationships, and legal affairs.

Addictive behavioral patterns affect the individual's brain and cause even more suffering. The disease model of addiction requires an increased intention on pharmacological treatment and psychotherapy modalities. For instance, the disease model claims that physiology and genes are malfunctioning and believe that addiction is fixed through

these methods. Suggesting that genetic attributions for mental health are linked to biological forms of intervention and can effectively work to treat these behaviors (Burnette et al., 2019). Furthermore, another method available is cognitive behavioral therapy and the person's ability to focus on a growth mindset. A person needs to develop a growth mindset to change the behavior. The individual needs to believe they can change their addiction to alcohol and or drugs (Burnette et al., 2019). For example, the person can change their mindset by setting an intention of claiming I can maintain sober from alcohol and or drugs. This mindset will help the individual get through treatment and remain sober even when it seems impossible.

In conclusion, drug, alcohol addiction, and overdose are a huge problem, which is affecting our society, families, and children. One of the major issues our society is facing is teenagers becoming addicted to drugs and alcohol. Many teenagers are not only using drugs and alcohol but start selling drugs to maintain their addiction and get arrested. This is affecting our teenagers that are struggling with addiction and facing incarceration. This issues can lead to criminal behavior and imprisonment as an adult. Overdose deaths are increasingly high because of combination use of opioids, stimulants, and mental health prescriptions. Many adolescents are struggling with a mental illness and dealing with trauma. This addictive behavioral patterns and compulsive behavior can lead drug and alcohol addiction, overdose, and suicide is closely related to trauma. The addictive behavior affects the individual's brain and causes more suffering. The disease of addiction re-

quires pharmacological treatment and psychotherapy. Through proper treatment a person can recover and live longer.

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